

REGISTER OF CLASSIFICATION DECISIONS

Title of Publication: The Peaceful Pill: Single Shot

Other Known Title: Single Shot
The Single Shot

Medium: Computer Moving Image File

Director/Author: Not Stated

Producer/Publisher: Not Stated

Country of Origin: Australia

Language: English

Applicant: Kenneth Alfred Orr

Distributor: Exit International

Classification:	Objectionable.
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Descriptive Note: Not Applicable

Display Conditions: Not Applicable

Date of entry in Register: 25 November 2008

Date of direction to issue a label: Not Applicable

OFLC No: 801345

Unexcised version of publication:

	Components	Running time
Feature:	The Peaceful Pill: Single Shot	5.22
Total running time:		5.22

Excisions: No Excisions Recommended.

Reasons for excisions:

Not Applicable

Summary of reasons for classification:

The computer moving image file *The Peaceful Pill: Single Shot* is objectionable.

This is a short, apparently instructional, film about a group of elderly people who illegally manufacture pentobarbital, a controlled chemical substance intended to be used as a “peaceful” suicide pill. Its intended audience of elderly and terminally ill people are likely to gain the impression that it is possible for an untrained person to successfully manufacture pentobarbital using the improvised technique shown. Apart from references to safety measures said to be needed as a precaution against unnamed risks, the film has a reassuring tone, contains no adverse commentary and never mentions criminality. The people in the film do not appear to experience any difficulty in manufacturing the drug. The film promotes and encourages criminal acts under s3(3)(d) by making them seem a completely normal and positive part of everyday life.

While the film may not be intended to be instructional it could easily be mistaken as such. If taken as instructional, the publication is ultimately deceptive because it is unlikely pentobarbital can be manufactured by following the film’s instructions alone. The film does not mention that it leaves out significant steps in the synthesis, nor does it address safety measures adequately. It is precisely this lack of information that is the source of the injury to the public good that is likely to be caused by this film’s availability. The film’s failure to acknowledge explicitly that it omits steps vital to the manufacturing process, and the manner in which its comforting and reassuring tone downplays safety issues, disguises the dangerousness of the activities depicted. This substantially increases the likelihood of accidents occurring if anyone in the film’s intended audience tried to replicate the manufacture of pentobarbital said to be depicted in the film, placing him or her at considerable risk of serious personal injury or death. The film’s intended audience of elderly and terminally ill people may be particularly motivated to obtain information from this film and to follow its instructions. Any use of the film as a basis on which to manufacture a drug said to induce a peaceful death is more likely to cause a violent injury or death by accident.

Having considered the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990 throughout the Office's application of the statutory criteria to this publication, and having identified the likely harms that the availability of this publication is likely to create, it is apparent that injury to the public good is likely to result from the publication being made available to anyone, regardless of age. Although a classification of "objectionable" violates the freedom of expression, it is the only classification that sufficiently reduces the risk presented by the availability of this publication.